

AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES

May 8th, 2003

Members Present: Elsie Fetterman, Isaac BenEzra, Janice Denton, Jean Haggerty, Barbara Melrose

Absent: Henry Peirce, Liz Massey, Doris Mundo, Sara Wolff

Staff Present: John Clobridge, Nancy Pagano, Ferne Finger

Other: Doris Holden (Senior Trust Treasurer),

Minutes of February 13th accepted with corrections—Council members discussed renting vans instead of repairing the S.C. van because of safety concerns. It was VOTED to rent a van on April 5th for the Springfield Symphony performance.

Minutes of April 3rd accepted with correction—The total collected toward the new van was \$120 and \$725 was the total collected for the overall solicitation as of the time of the April 3rd meeting.

Minutes of March 6th accepted.

Minutes of April 8th accepted with corrections—Nancy said that the COA budget may possibly be getting a cut of 10% or even 15-20% (worse case scenario). The final figures won't be out till mid-June. Under the paragraph having to do with fees for the use of the Bangs Center: this idea continues to be one of many on Barry's desk.

Senior Trust Treasurer's Report

To date, the solicitation has raised \$1920. The Trust has netted \$1755 after deducting donations earmarked for Center Activities and the *Senior Spirit*. Request for \$110.95 van rental approved. Scholarships of \$150 for foot care approved. \$50 for two COA members to attend the 14th Annual Elder Care Conference for Western Mass approved.

Director's Report

- Budget Update

Maureen's secretarial position is targeted to be cut. She will likely work full time until December and then retire at her 65th birthday. Barbara Taylor's 10 hr. a week position as Administrative Assistant is 75% funded by an Elder Affairs grant which may be reduced. Maura Plante's position, which is partially supported by a Congregate Housing grant, is targeted for a significant cut.

VOTED—COA members do not want the COA secretarial position to be eliminated and want that expressed to the Town Manager and Selectboard. They feel this is an extraordinarily large cut to our department, esp. when considering other cuts looming. They also will advocate for increasing Barbara Taylor's hours.

- Progress on old van, new van and van trips

John reported that the internal repairs have been made at a price of about \$350 because Public Works did the work and did not charge for labor. (At the time the COA was given the College Street Motors estimate, staff did not know that Public Works doing the repairs was even an option.) The body work, estimated by Marshall Steinbeck to be around \$1000 is still not done. Elsie moved and it was VOTED that the van should not be used before an inspection is done. Nancy said that henceforth the van will not be filled with more than nine people. This limitation clearly makes the van capacity too low for Senior Travel Club outings, eg. the Big E in September.

- Report on Aging Conference at Mount Marie.

Isaac felt that it would have been valuable for staff to go to this conference. Isaac led the workshop on the cost of prescription drugs. Elsie gave a report on the COA's collaboration with police and fire departments to protect frail elders. Further information can be obtained from Carolyn Lee Bottum, Director of the Bedford Council on Aging.

Committees

- TRANSPORTATION

Representatives from PVTa met with the Transportation Committee and John today. PVTa has planned several similar meetings in area communities to discuss their budget issues and potential fare increases and other policy changes. PVTa is considering charges ranging from \$2 to \$4 one way or as much as \$9 round trip. There was some discussion of the negative affect such fares will have on the Senior Center.

- FACILITIES

This committee did not meet. John says he met with LSSE and they think that the proposed Cinema Center is a place for some programs and some administration to be located, but not

everything. Other long range ideas for LSSE are Kendrick Place or a War Memorial Pool complex. "There are lots of 'ifs'".

- **GRANTS**

The grants committee did not meet this month. Doris Mundo met with John and gave him a CD. Foundations are turning to "intermediaries" to distribute funds.

- **HVES**

Liz hasn't been to a meeting yet. She will have an orientation.

- **NOMINATING**

Isaac appointed Jean Haggerty, Janice Denton and Elsie Fetterman to this committee. Elections will be at the COA July meeting.

Old Business

Barbara Melrose asked about the progress of the Large Activity Room redecoration. She says that it continues to be "dismal". Nancy reported that monies are needed to build a storage space for LSSE's sports equipment so that the area under the south window can be cleared and spruced up with plants. Ideas for artwork on the brick wall and lighting need funding.

John says that data is back from six Nursing Centers in response to John's questionnaire. In Worcester, "the biggest problem is w/control." In Orleans, they lost the funding for a nurse. Merrimack, Chicopee, Greenfield and Arlington are "going strong".

New Business

Barbara Melrose would like to discuss the use of the Senior Trust ID number by the Senior Center Club and Senior Travel Club at the June meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM. The next meeting is June 5th. (E.F.+ N.P.)